

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

59

September 9, 2003

FROM: BRIAN MCCORMICK
Public Administrator/Coroner

SUBJECT: GRANT FROM FOUNDATION FOR IMPROVEMENT OF JUSTICE, INC.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Accept grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the Foundation for Improvement of Justice, Inc.
2. Authorize the Auditor/Controller-Recorder to increase revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$10,000 as detailed in the Financial Impact section. (4 votes required)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: On February 21, 2003, the Superior Court Grant and Special Projects Coordinator submitted a nomination of the Coroner Department's Sentencing Through Alternative Resources (S.T.A.R.) Program to the Foundation for Improvement of Justice grant program on behalf of the Superior Court and the Coroner Department. The S.T.A.R. Program was created by the Coroner Department in 1998 and functions through collaboration with the Superior Court of California. Through this program, those sentenced by the courts for "drunk driving/substance abuse, etc." can be sentenced to do community service hours at the Coroner Department. The goal of the program is to provide a motivational experience to the offender to reduce the likelihood of driving again while under the influence. After being ordered to S.T.A.R., the offender completes service hours by attending a two-hour mandatory counseling session presented by a Victim Impact Panel from MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) and is given an orientation of the morgue facility. If the offender has been sentenced to more community service than the two-hour MADD session, then work assignments are given that can include cleaning autopsy tables, mopping morgue or autopsy area floors, and working on the grounds of the Coroner Department. The effectiveness of the S.T.A.R. Program was evaluated by conducting current record checks on program participants to ascertain how many re-offended after completing the program. The result was a recidivism rate of 13%, compared with MADD's reported national rate of 33%. Based on this and the ancillary benefits for our community in saving incarceration costs, fostering economic stability by allowing offenders to remain in their homes and being employed while completing their court ordered service hours, the nomination for the grant was positively received.

Initially, the intent was for the Superior Court and the Coroner Department to split any award. The Superior Court has graciously requested that the entire \$10,000 monetary grant award be given to the Coroner Department for the S.T.A.R. Program. It is anticipated that this money would be used for items related to the program, such as: new tools and cleaning supplies, protective vests, audio visual training equipment, etc.

There are no restrictions or local match requirements from the Foundation on the use of the award monies.

Page 1 of 2

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

59

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
GRANT FROM FOUNDATION FOR IMPROVEMENT OF JUSTICE, INC.**

September 9, 2003

Page 2 of 2

REVIEW BY OTHERS: This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (Charles Larkin, Deputy County Counsel) on August 18, 2003; Courts (Tressa Kentner, Superior Court Executive Officer) on August 18, 2003; and the County Administrative Office (Marcia Faulkner, Administrative Analyst) on August 27, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: There is no impact to local cost associated with this recommendation. While this program was developed in 1998, recent activity has been minimal so this was not included in the budget for 2002-03 or 2003-04. Further, the Foundation first notified the Superior Court and the Coroner Department of the award of this grant on July 22, 2003 - after the current budget was adopted. Adjustments to revenue and appropriations are as follows:

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|-------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| Increase Revenue | AAA-PAC-COR-9970 | \$10,000 |
| Increase Appropriations | AAA-PAC-COR-200-2135 | \$10,000 |

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): All

PRESENTER: Brian McCormick, Public Administrator/Coroner, (909) 387-2543